



BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 386

February 9, 2022

TO: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: HB 386 - Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses Account –
Local State of Emergency

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill 386.

HB 386 would provide Baltimore City, and other local governments, greater flexibility in providing support to local small, minority, and women-owned businesses during a state of emergency declared by the Mayor. The pandemic has shown us how critical such support can be to these businesses.

The bill expands the eligibility for small, minority, or women-owned businesses to qualify for financial assistance in areas declared a state of emergency. Eligible fund managers would be able to provide financial assistance to businesses and non-profits in the form of a grant or to convert part or all of a loan to a grant before the area was declared a federal disaster area or became subject to a declaration of emergency. The amount of any grant or loan converted to a grant may not exceed \$50,000 for a single business. The aggregate total of financial assistance provided in the form of grants and loans converted to grants may not exceed \$10,000,000 in a fiscal year.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 0386.